Difficulties in Exploration Programme by Private and Foreign Companies

1065. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether oil exploration programme with the participation of foreign and private firms is facing serious problems;

(b) whether any foreign firm which have been awarded contracts have backed out from signing the deal;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) its likely impact on the oil exploration programme in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Under the Fourth Round of bidding, contracts with two foreign bidders could not be finalised as they had put forward unacceptable conditions.

(d) There will not be any impact on the oil exploration programme in the country.

Railway Zones

1066. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to divide the country into 13 Railway Zones; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the additional expenditure to be incurred as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b) A study group constituted for examining the existing geographical distribution of zones and divisions in the wake of Project Uniguage and the construction of Konkan Railway, has suggested a need for its rationalisation. This exercise may also entail the creation of some new zones and divisions.

Further processing for formulation of proposals and other related matters is being undertaken.

सुपर बाजार की शाखाओं में सार्वजनिक फोन सुविधाएं

1067. **श्री कनकसिंह मोहनसिंह मंगरौला** : क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगें कि:

(क)क्या सरकार ने वर्ष 1995-96 के दौरान दिल्ली में सुपर बाजार की सभी शाखाओं में सार्वजनिक टेलीफोन की सुविधा उपलब्ध कराने का निर्णय किया हैं;

(ख)यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या हैं;

(ग)क्या सुपर बाजार के महाप्रबंधक ने सरकार को टेलीफोन की कमी से हो रही असुविधा के संबंध में कोई अथ्यावेदन प्रस्तुत किया हैं;

(घ)यदि हां, तो इस पर सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया हैं; और

(ड.)उपरोक्त अवधि के दोरान सुपर बाजार में शाखा-वार कितने सार्वजनिक टेलीफोन उपलब्ध कराए जाने की संभावना हैं?

संचार मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (**श्री सुखराम**) : (क) से (ड.) सूचना एकत्र की जा रही हैं और सभा पटल पर रख दी जाएगी।

LPG Connections Under Ministerial Quota

1068. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications for LPG connections pending with Government under Minister's Quota; and

(b) the number of connections which have been sanctioned during 1994-95 and target fixed for allotment of LPG connections during 1995-96 out of Minister's quota?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT, SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) 84563 domestic LPG connections in 1994 and 59384 connections in 1995 (upto June, 1995) were sanctioned by the Government on request of individualsand recommendations of public representatives, Government functionaries, public and social workers and dignitaries, including MPs and Ex- MPs in some cases, in urgent and deserving cases at the discretion of the Government. No target is fixed by the Government in this regard.

Unmanned Level Crossings

1069. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number and details of unmanned Railway level crossings in Bihar and the country as a whole as on date;

(b) the details of Railway level crossing accidents in the States during the last five years and so far during 1995 indicating the lives lost and persons injured; and

(c) the number of level crossing manned mechanised during these years and the plans for 1995 in this regards?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Number and details of unmanned Railway level corssings in Bihar and the country as a whole on date.

1. BIHAR:		
Eastern Railway	—	227
North Eastern Railway	—	994
Northeast Frontier Railway	—	190
South Eastern Railway	—	405
		1766

2. Country as a whole:		
Central Railway	—	1303
Eastern Railway	—	687
Northern Railway	—	3090
North Eastern Rly.	—	2615
Northeast Frontier Rly.	—	1701
Southern Railway	—	2324
South Central Rly.	—	2108
South Eastern Rly.	—	3467
Western Railway	—	3972
		21267

(b) Details are given in the ANNEXURE. *[See* Appendix 174, Annexure No. 32]

No. of level crossing manned/ mechanised during 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994 & 1995.

Year	Manned	Mechanised (provided with lifting barrier)
1991	26	40
1992	54	39
1993	39	42
1994	189	39
1995	329	75
	637	235

Gas produced by Oil Fields of Assam

1070. SHRI TARA CHARAN MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the quantity of natural gas being produced per day invarious oil fields in Assam;

(b) what is the quantity of gas being flared daily invarious oil fields in the State;

(c) whether Government propose to utilize the gas which is being flared in Assam; and